



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Jorge Luis Payan, Sr., 48, of Belton, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larson this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, **Payan** admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2001, and June 2, 2003.

During a search of his residence, law enforcement officers recovered methamphetamine, two sets of scales with residue and \$665 on July 3, 2002. **Payan** admitted that he purchased the methamphetamine found in his residence for \$2,500 and that he planned to sell it, Graves said. The total amount of pure methamphetamine found at his residence weighed more than 12 grams.

A second search of a motel room that Payan occupied was conducted on May 20, 2003. During the search, law enforcement officers discovered six plastic bags and more than 19 grams of methamphetamine. Shortly after the motel room search, law enforcement officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle **Payan** was driving. Upon searching the vehicle, the officers discovered a small round tin containing 15 bundles of methamphetamine weighing approximately three grams.

Payan was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 18, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal law, Graves explained, **Payan** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in prison without parole, plus a \$4 million fine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. The case

was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow